

Quarterly Newsletter

Quarter Highlights (July to September 2024)



members attended, including the Chairman and President. The meeting reviewed IAFI's financial health, which has improved significantly over the last four years, and highlighted a growing corporate membership that now stands at 27. Members were briefed on IAFI's participation in international events such as ITU-R WRC-23 and its significant achievements over the past year. Elections for office bearers for 2024-26 were also conducted, with new leadership taking charge. ITU Publication Regarding Latest Radio Regulations - 2024: Updates from WRC-23 in Dubai included revisions to 20 Articles, 10 Appendices, and the adoption of 43 new Resolutions. The ITU has released the 2024 edition of the Radio Regulations, which will come into effect starting January

2025. These regulations consolidate decisions from past conferences and introduce new provisions for the evolving telecom landscape. Meeting of the Working Group-3 of NFAP: The 2nd meeting of WG-3, chaired by Shri M.K. Pattanaik of the WPC Wing, DoT, reviewed issues in the 17.5-31.0 GHz range. IAFI proposed updates to the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) for better alignment with international standards. Contributions included recommendations for inter-satellite links and IMT band

implementations, all aimed at streamlining spectrum allocation. Radio Group Preparatory Meeting for AWG-33: A hybrid meeting on August 28, 2024, prepared for AWG-33 in Bangkok. IAFI finalized six key contributions, including reports on cooperative vehicle-infrastructure systems, Terahertz fixed wireless systems, and deployment approaches for 5G use cases. These efforts reflect IAFI's commitment to advancing regional telecom developments. Meeting of the Focus Group on Costing Model for Affordable Data Services: On August 29,

strategies for affordable data services. IAFI agreed to simplify its questionnaire format for better engagement, with the next meeting scheduled for November 2024. IAFI Letter to Minister of Communication Regarding De-Licensing of 5G CNPN: In a meeting with Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, IAFI President Bharat Bhatia emphasized the need to exempt captive 5G networks from authorization requirements. Highlighting their non-commercial nature, IAFI proposed creating a "Class Authorization" category to encourage innovation and industrial growth.

2024, the ITU-T Focus Group (FG-CD) met virtually to discuss telecom cost models and pricing

IAFI in its Press Release Opposes the Merging of GMPCS and VSAT Licenses: IAFI voiced strong opposition to TRAI's proposal to merge GMPCS and VSAT licenses, citing their distinct functionalities. It also urged the government to expedite rules for Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO) satellites to enhance internet access in remote areas. Review/Revision of the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) - 2022 IAFI submitted comprehensive proposals for NFAP updates, focusing on IMT band implementation, IoT/M2M spectrum allocation, and provisions for broadcasting support services. These revisions aim to address evolving spectrum demands while ensuring efficient usage.

TRAI Consultation Paper Regarding Reserve Price for Auction of FM Radio Channels: In response to TRAI's consultation on reserve prices for FM Phase-III, IAFI reviewed proposals for 20 cities categorized as "E." Stakeholders were invited to submit their views by August 29, 2024. India-Made Telecom Equipment Now Being Exported to More Than 100 Nations: Indian telecom companies have successfully penetrated global markets, exporting \$18.2 billion worth of equipment and services last year. Indigenous innovations, like chip-based 4G base stations for the Army, reflect India's growing telecom prowess.



telecom industry issues. IAFI Comments on TRAI Consultation Paper Regarding M2M: In response to TRAI's call for comments on critical M2M services and SIM ownership transfer, IAFI submitted its views after engaging with industry stakeholders. The consultation aims to address the specific needs of critical M2M applications and simplify the regulatory framework.

reflecting recent technological developments. The contribution will be discussed in the next FG-CD virtual meeting in August 2024. IAFI's 20th EC Meeting and Call for Biannual Elections: At the July 24, 2024, EC meeting, updates on individual, lifetime, and corporate memberships were shared, with Reliance Jio and Dhruv Space joining as corporate members. The EC confirmed the schedule for IAFI biannual

elections, set for August 30, 2024, alongside the AGM, despite suggestions to defer the process.

The 2024 Union Budget allocated significant funds for telecom projects, with over ₹1 lakh crore dedicated to BSNL and MTNL, including ₹82,916 crore for BSNL's technology upgrades. Other allocations include ₹34.46 crore for Technology Development and ₹1,806.34 crore for the

Union Budget Earmarks ₹1.29 Lakh Crore for Telecom Sector

IAFI Submitted a New Contribution to FG-CD: Building on discussions at the April FG-CD meeting, IAFI proposed updates to ITU-T Recommendation D.264 on infrastructure sharing,

Production Linked Incentive Scheme. Meeting of SG-3 of ITU-T: The fifth SG-3 meeting held in Geneva in July 2024 focused on telecom/ICT economic issues, discussing 48 contributions, including one from IAFI co-edited with regional partners. The FG-CD study group's term was extended till October 2025, with the next SG-3 meeting set for April 2025.

Virtual Meeting of Working Group-2 of NFAP-2022: On July 19, 2024, WG-2 met under the DoT to discuss frequency updates for NFAP-2022. IAFI advocated de-licensing the 5925-6425 MHz band for Wi-Fi 6E and using 5875-5925 MHz for C-V2X in Intelligent Transport Systems, aligning

with global trends. Bharat 6G Alliance Leadership Tech Talks: The Bharat 6G Alliance launched "6G Leadership Tech Talks" to position India as a leader in global 6G innovation. IAFI President Shri Bharat Bhatia presented on spectrum allocation challenges and opportunities, fostering discussions on future telecom strategies.

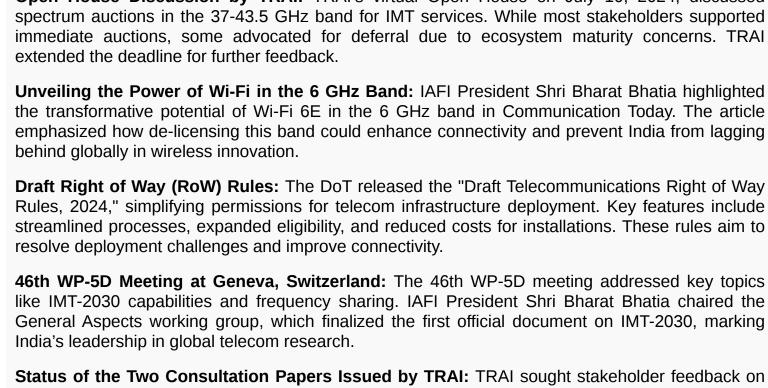
Theme of IMC-24 Launched by the Telecom Minister: The Telecom Minister launched the theme "The Future is Now" for IMC-24, showcasing India's tech advancements. With over 400 exhibitors and 600 speakers expected, the event aims to highlight India's transition from technology consumer

Government to Notify Rules Under the New Telecom Act: The Telecom Minister announced plans to notify rules under the new Telecom Act within 180 days. These rules aim to enhance 5G and 6G developments, boost telecom equipment exports, and create thousands of new jobs, narrowing India's trade deficit in telecom equipment. Open House Discussion by TRAI: TRAI's virtual Open House on July 10, 2024, discussed

to supplier, symbolizing its global influence.

regulations.

connectivity.



revising the National Numbering Plan and addressing critical M2M services and SIM ownership transfer. IAFI provided detailed comments on both, emphasizing efficiency and clarity in telecom

Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI Appointed as Chairman WG General Aspects of WP-5D at the 46th Meeting of WP-5D: Shri Bharat Bhatia was appointed Chairman of the General Aspects Working Group at the WP-5D meeting held in Geneva from June 25 to July 2, 2024. The group focuses on the 6G framework and IMT-2030 technologies. His extensive expertise in spectrum policy and international telecom standards, including leadership roles in ITU and APT, reinforced his appointment. Discussions included IMT frequency bands for WRC-27 and direct satellite-to-mobile

ISMC-24 to Be Held in New Delhi on 7-8 November 2024: The India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC-24) will take place in November in New Delhi, with prominent guests like ITU-R Director Mario Maniewicz and DST Secretary Prof. Abhay Karandikar. The event will explore

The Telecommunications Act, 2023: Ushering in a New Era of Connectivity: Sections of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, came into force on June 26, 2024, marking a significant reform. Key provisions include a robust Right of Way (RoW) framework, support for universal service in rural areas, expanded security measures, and new mechanisms to foster innovation. The Act replaces

key spectrum management issues with participation from national and international experts.

outdated laws and aligns with modern telecom advancements. Joining of New Ministers: Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia was appointed Union Minister of Communications, taking charge of spectrum guidelines and upcoming auctions. Shri Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani and Shri Ashwini Vaishnav assumed new ministerial roles, marking leadership changes to bolster India's telecom initiatives.

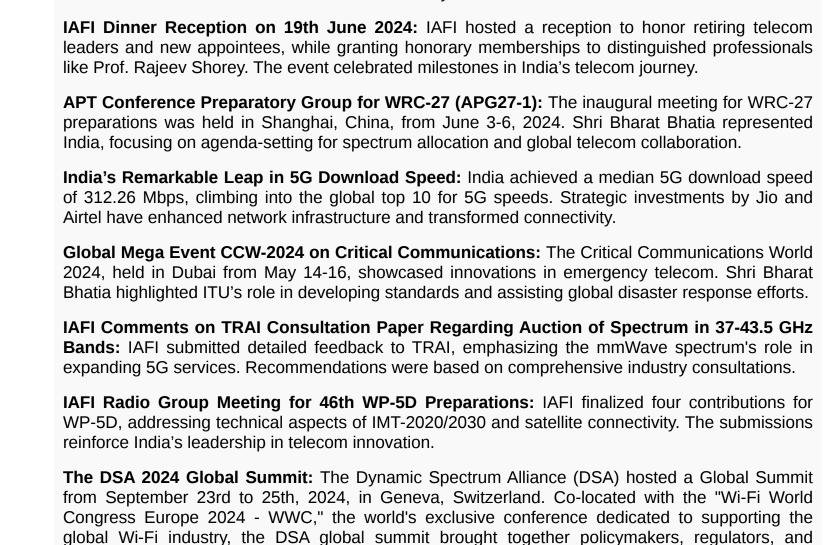
1st meeting

Conference on World Wi-Fi Day: On June 20, 2024, the Broadband India Forum hosted a conference in New Delhi emphasizing Wi-Fi's role in affordable broadband access. IAFI President Shri Bharat Bhatia highlighted India's position on the 5925–7125 MHz frequency band, advocating

Working Group 2

RECONFIGURABLE INTELLIGENT SURFACES (RI

its use for unlicensed Wi-Fi to enhance connectivity.



Communications Committee (ECC) of CEPT and Mr Mercedes Aramendia, President, Communications Services Regulatory Unit (URSEC). The year 2024, marked a significant milestone in technological history as the world celebrated the 25th anniversary of Wi-Fi. In the year 1999, the Wi-Fi Alliance released the standards for the Wi-Fi technology. This ground-breaking technology has revolutionized our lives, and its widespread adoption can be attributed to the efforts of the Wi-Fi Alliance (formerly known as the Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance - WECA).

Media Showcase: Following Items relating to IAFI were covered in the media

industry professionals to discuss Spectrum Sharing, focused on innovation and opportunities. Leading figures from the Wi-Fi industry shared their insights on the potential of 6 GHz Wi-Fi for homes, IoT, next-generation enterprise connectivity, ISPs, MSPs, device innovation, and the cutting-edge advancements in Wi-Fi technology. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI is invited as Guest Speaker to address the issue "User's demands in the era of AI and the path to 6G Services" and joined panel discussion along with Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, APT, Mr Chris Woolford, Director of International Spectrum Policy - Ofcom and Chairman - Electronic

regulatory environment Read More ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) hosted 4 th India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC- 24) on 7-8 November, 2024 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi. Important pivotal issues like WRC-27 Agenda Items, Spectrum Roadmap for 4G/5G IMT technologies, 6 GHz spectrum issues, Direct broadcast to Mobile, GSO/NGSO issues and Read More During the 4th ISMC-24 organized by the IAFI, Prof Raul Kartz, President Telecom Advisor services, LLP, USA and Prof University of San Andres, Argentina explained the economic value of lower 6 GHz Wi-Fi spectrum, 5925-6425 MHz as Read More 4. ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) organized 4th India Spectrum Management Conference 2024 (ISMC-24) was held from 7-8 Nov, 2024 at Hotel Le Meridian, New Delhi. Event served as the prominent forum for in-depth analysis of key issues related to Read More 5. ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) in response to a TRAI Consultation Paper submitted comprehensive response regarding the ongoing consultation paper on Telecom Commercial Communication. IAFI emphasized the need to expand the framework' scope to prevent SCAM Communication Read More In response to TRAI Consultation Paper on service authorization granted under new Telecom Act, 2023, IAFI vehemently opposes the proposed amalgamation of the GMPCS and VSAT authorization and said that these two authorization should remain separate as Read More 7. IAFI calls for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted

8. Bharat Bhatia, president ITU APT Foundation of India has been elected to chair the global group

consultation paper on spectrum auction, in millimeter bands 37-37.5 GHz, 37.5-40 GHz, and 42.5-43.5 GHz bands, seeking comments from the stakeholders, for future 5G deployment and ensuring reliable and widespread 5G coverage in sectors like healthcare, robotics, and Industry

standardizing 6G technology, to focus on enhancing India's participation in the ITU IMT-2030 framework. IAFI welcomes participation from industry, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations on ubiquitous and affordable connectivity, support

development of telecom and semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, thus India taking lead in

11. IAFI urges Department of Telecom for urgently delicensing the frequency band 5925-6425 MHz for the use of Wi-Fi to support India's local manufacturing innovation and export make in India products. Considering the importance of the Wi-Fi in 6 GHz band, many major economies like USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Singapore, UAE etc, have already delicensed Wi-Fi 6e

12. During the "National Workshop on Learnings from WRC-23 and the way forward, planning for

WRC-27 and forthcoming ITU and APT meetings", organized by IAFI at Hotel Hyatt Centric, MG Road, Bangalore, Chief Guest, the Member (Technology) announced that the Department of

10. A new Task Force dedicated to address the challenges and opportunities in developing and

9. Shri Bharat Bhatia, President, IAFI in a press release applauded TRAI for releasing a

Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Read More

in ITU that will decide the 6G standards. Read More

6G Technology ecosystem and services. Read More

issuance of rules under the telecom act. Read More

telecommunication standardization. Read More

needed for Innovation and Local Manufacturing

4.0. Read More

More

under MTCTE

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Communication Services

Spectrum Swapping

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Eminent educational institutes as members.

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The United States ITU Association

WIRELESS WORLD

(5925-6425 MHz). Read More

1. IAFI in the comprehensive comment on TRAI Consultation Paper concerning terms and

ensure robust telecom infrastructure, equitable spectrum access and innovation friendly

conditions of network authorization under new Telecom Act, 2023, highlighted critical reforms to

Telecommunications (DoT) will soon initiate studies on the Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS). The studies will also address potential 5G coexistence issues with Aircraft Radio Altimeters. Read More 13. DoT to resolve 5G coexistence with radio altimeters, start studies on CBRS: Official Read More 14. IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to expedite the assignment of satellite spectrum without any further delay. This is to prevent potential service launch delays for

15. In the 45th meeting of WP5D of the ITU-R in Geneva (January 31 to February 7, 2024), a

promoting financial inclusion and driving economic growth. Read More

proposal by IAFI was approved to create a global report on mobile technologies for financial inclusion. The report will include insights from India's experience with UPI payments. IAFI emphasized UPI's robust security, reliability, and speed, underscoring its crucial role in

16. IAFI has urged the Department of Telecommunications to promptly process applications for the assignment of satellite spectrum, specifically for VSAT and similar services authorized under unified licenses. The request aims to prevent any delays in the launch of services by VSAT and other satellite operators, emphasizing the importance of adherence to existing guidelines. Read

17. The first national preparatory workshop for the World Telecommunication Standardization

of WTSA, review of existing resolutions, and proposals for new resolutions in the field of

Assembly (WTSA-24) was organized by the Telecom Engineering Centre of the Department of Telecom and IAFI. The workshop focused on key topics such as the structure and organization

Links to our Activities & Programmes

1) Letter to Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Shri P K Mishra for PMO Support

2) Hon'ble Minister of Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government

VSAT and other satellite operators operating under a unified license. IAFI emphasizes that such assignments should be processed promptly under existing guidelines, without waiting for the

of India Request for IAFI's recommendation for Delicensing of Captive 5G networks under Service Authorisations to be Granted Under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. 3) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways Request for Industry consultation on Draft Telecommunication Rules, 2023 4) Letter to Secretary, Ministry of Power Request for Implementing Green Open Access Rules for the Telecom Sector in States/UTs 5) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for further extension of implementation of MTCTE

6) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Clarification for import of NGSO Satellite Devices

7) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite Communication

8) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Request for Urgent Intervention in Equipment Theft

9) Letter to Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Railways, Government of India Urgent need for WRC-23 follow up actions on 6GHz Band-Delicensing of 5925-6425 MHz is key to support

10) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Rationalization of Spectrum Usage Charges (SUC)

12) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Suggestions for formulation of a new Policy for

IAFI MEMBERSHIP

ITU-APT Foundation of India (IAFI) is a non-profit, non-political, non-partisan Industry foundation registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1960. IAFI has been working for the last 20 years with the prime objective of encouraging the involvement of professionals, corporate, public/private sector industries, R&D organizations, academic institutions, and such other agencies engaged in the development of the Indian Telecom sector. The members of IAFI are corporate members are 28 and individual members to 135 making a total of 163 members. The EC also emphasized on the Creation of a new member category for academia and a campaign to register

The benefits provided to the members include an invitation to all the events of the Foundation which include: Training programs, seminars, workshops, etc. conducted by the society on a complimentary basis. Besides, EC Members will also have access to information related to ITU and APT and other telecom journals where members can subscribe. Members are further eligible to participate in ITU-T, ITU-D, and APT activities. The individual Membership Fee of IAFI has been reversed to the previous fee that was applicable since the beginning. Please click: Membership

11) Letter to Secretary DoT & Chairman DCC Assignment of Spectrum for Satellite



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TELESAT

Partners Association

ACCESS.SPACE

Activities in our focus areas during August 2024

Qualcomm

Viasat:**

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Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

and identify initiatives that can accelerate sectoral growth.

Idea CEO Akshaya Moondra and Jio Chairman Akash Ambani, are expected to participate in the discussions in Tuesday's meeting. The meeting follows the recent spectrum auction and tariff hikes by all three telecom operators. The auction fetched government bids of Rs 11,340 crore against Rs 96,238 crore, the minimum value the government had estimated for the spectrum on offer. The goal is to gather feedback from industry stakeholders on existing challenges, address them effectively,

with over 7.9 lakh complaints filed against Unregistered Telemarketers (UTMs) in the first half of 2024 alone. To curb the rising tide of unsolicited promotional calls, TRAI issued a stern directive on August 13th to all telecom access providers. The regulator mandated that providers immediately cease such calls from unregistered marketers using SIP, PRI, or other telecom resources. In response to TRAI's directive, telecom access providers have taken stringent measures against spammers. They have blacklisted 50 companies and disconnected 2.75 lakh telecom resources, demonstrating their commitment to combating this issue. Additionally, the regulator has threatened to blacklist unregistered telemarketers who fail to comply. Follow us on:- (f) X (in)



Space is becoming more critical to global development than ever before. The question of space sustainability, therefore, looms large. As we look to leverage space technologies to improve lives and livelihoods on Earth, we must also consider how to preserve the space environment itself. Now, you might ask: "Why ITU? Why now?" The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) custodian of the radio-frequency spectrum on Earth and in space – also has a vital role in keeping space use sustainable. We have been there from the beginning, and everything people do in space to this day relies on radiocommunication. ITU started focusing on space with the launch of Sputnik I, the first-ever artificial satellite, in 1957. Our Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference in Geneva in 1963 allocated frequencies to various space services and updated the Radio Regulations for the new age.



The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has reported a substantial increase in spam calls,

ITU-APT Foundation Of India 504, Fifth Floor World Trade Center (Behind Lalit Hotel) Barakhamba Road New Delhi- 110001, India. Contact No.: +91-11-45005163, 7017210403, 9999797700 - Web: <u>iafi.in</u> If you do not want to receive this mailer, you can unsubscribe here from our mailing list.